

September 1, 2014

Attn: Mary Ann Fantauzzi, Mary DiSanto Rose, Gail Tassarotti & the Capital Region Dance Alliance Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you again for your financial support of my project "Spirit of Life: 150 Years of Music, Words & Dance". Your help went a long way in helping me see this project to fruition. At the present time, I would also like to submit my final report as per the guidelines specified.

Along with collaborator Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius and her world jazz ensemble, "Heard", this summer I presented an hour long, interdisciplinary / multi-media production based upon the fine arts in Saratoga. A historical commentary on the arts in Saratoga, the "Spirit of Life", highlighted the significance of Yaddo, Caffè Lena, The National Museum of Dance and The Saratoga Performing Arts Center to Saratoga Springs. It was presented on June 15th, in the JKB Theater at Skidmore College during the 2014 Saratoga Arts Festival.

The seven piece "Heard" ensemble performed live. The music, by local composer Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius, was inspired by Saratoga and provided the platform for the work. Present Skidmore dancers and both dance & theater alums rounded out the cast. Two 2014 graduates created video projections & compilations which further enhanced the production.

This project benefited both our students and the Saratoga community at large on many levels. Our students had the rare opportunity of performing to live music and working with professional musicians in both the rehearsal and performance environment. Aside from the benefits received from this type of experience, they learned a great deal about time management/constraints in a professional situation and the importance of making every moment count. All valuable lessons for young people today.

The "Spirit of Life" was extremely well received by members of the community who responded with an immediate standing ovation. Many expressed a desire to see it again and all commented on what a wonderful testament it was to the cultural climate of the area. Many folks also mentioned how much they learned about the historical background of the arts in Saratoga.

The \$750. grant received from the Dance Alliance was used in a variety of ways. This is attached under separate cover. It was especially helpful in the purchase of small items that were difficult to obtain on an as needed basis. Again, I wish to express my deep appreciation for your support. I couldn't have done it without you!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Harney